UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/775,101	02/11/2004	Walter James Reinhard	C697 0006/GNM	1573

720 7590 02/13/2008

OYEN, WIGGS, GREEN & MUTALA LLP
480 - THE STATION
601 WEST CORDOVA STREET
VANCOUVER, BC V6B 1G1
CANADA

EXAMINER	
SIDDIQI, MOHAMMAD A	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
2154	

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
02/13/2008	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/775,101	REINHARD ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Mohammad A. Siddiqi	2154	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *11 February 2004*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-46* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-46* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *02/11/2004* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *06/28/2005*.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-46 are presented for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Regarding claims 1 and 28, the phrase " substantially the same" renders the claim(s) indefinite because the claim(s) include(s) elements not actually disclosed (those encompassed by "substantially the same "), thereby rendering the scope of the claim(s) unascertainable. See MPEP § 2173.05(d).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

5. Claims 1-11 and 19-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Pettey et al. (7,046,668) (hereinafter Pettey).

6. As per claim 1, Pettey discloses a method for exchanging data between compute nodes of a computer system comprising:

a plurality of compute nodes interconnected (PCI Express, fig 3, col 11, lines 4-26) by an inter-node communication network (fig 1, col 7, 41-47), each of the compute nodes having an independent address space (own memory structure, fig 1, col 7, lines 54-67) and comprising:

a local packetized interconnect (col 10, lines 38-43),

a network interface (col 8, line 10) coupled to the local packetized interconnect and the inter-node communication network (col 10, lines 38-43), at least one data processor coupled to the local packetized interconnect (col 10, lines 30-43; col 11, lines 4-26); and,

a memory system coupled to the local packetized interconnect (col 9, lines 55-65); the method comprising tunneling data from the sending compute node to the receiving compute node by (col 23, lines 35-40):

placing a local packetized interconnect packet on the local packetized interconnect of the sending compute node (col 11, lines 4-26; col 15, lines 9-15);

receiving the local packetized interconnect packet at the network interface of the sending compute node (col 18, line64 – col 19, line 11);

encapsulating the local packetized interconnect packet in an inter-node communication network packet addressed to the receiving compute node (col 18, line64 – col 19, line 11; col 23, lines 35-40);

dispatching the inter-node communication network packet to the receiving compute node by way of the inter-node communication network (col 18, line64 – col 19, line 11);

receiving the inter-node communication network packet at the network interface of the receiving compute node (col 18, line64 – col 19, line 36);

extracting the local packetized interconnect packet from the inter-node communication network packet (col 18, line64 – col 19, line 36); and,

placing the extracted packet onto the local packetized interconnect of the receiving compute node (PCI Express, col 18, line64 – col 19, line 36)

wherein, when the local packetized interconnect packet is on the local packetized interconnect of the sending compute node (PCI Express, col 18, line64 – col 19, line 36), portions of the local packetized interconnect packet other than any addresses and any check values (fig 11, col 18, line64 – col

19, line 36) are substantially the same as the corresponding portions of the local packetized interconnect packet when the local packetized interconnect packet is on the local packetized interconnect of the receiving compute node (PCI Express, col 18, line64 – col 19, line 36).

7. As per claim 2, Pettey discloses associating a first range of addresses in an address space of a sending one of the compute nodes with the network interface of the sending compute node (col 16, lines 7-31) and, at the network interface of the sending compute node associating the first range of addresses with the receiving compute node wherein the method comprises determining that the local packetized interconnect packet is associated with an address in the first range of addresses upon receiving the local packetized interconnect packet at the network interface of the sending compute node (col 16, lines 7-31; col 18, line 64 – col 19, line 36) .

8. As per claim 3, Pettey discloses the method comprises performing an address translation on the local packetized interconnect packet after receiving the packet at the network interface of the sending compute node and prior to placing the extracted packet onto the local packetized interconnect of the receiving compute node (col 18, line 64 – col 19, line

36).

9. As per claim 4, Pettey discloses performing the address translation comprises editing the local packetized interconnect packet by changing an address to which the packet is addressed from an address in the first range of addresses to a corresponding address in an address space of the receiving compute node (PCI Express logic, col 16, lines 7-31).

10. As per claim 5, Pettey discloses the address translation is performed at the network interface of the sending compute node (col 16, lines 7-31).

11. As per claim 6, Pettey discloses allocating a region of the memory of the receiving compute node to receive data from the sending compute node, memory locations in the allocated region being addressable by addresses in a second range of addresses corresponding to the first range of addresses, and communicating the second range of addresses from the receiving compute node to the sending compute node prior to tunneling the data from the sending compute node to the receiving compute node (PCI configuration logic, col 16, lines 7-31; col 18, line 64 – col 19, line 36).

12. As per claim 7, Pettey discloses at the sending compute node, prior to tunneling the data, computing an address transformation between the first and second address ranges and using the address transformation to perform the address translation (col 16, lines 7-31; col 18, line 64 – col 19, line 36).

13. As per claim 8, Pettey discloses the address transformation comprises an address translation table (col 16, lines 7-31).

14. As per claim 9, Pettey discloses the first and second ranges of addresses are equal in size (col 16, lines 7-31).

15. As per claim 10, Pettey discloses the address translation is performed at the network interface of the receiving compute node (col 16, lines 7-31; col 18, line 64 – col 19, line 36).

16. As per claim 11, Pettey discloses the local packetized interconnect packet comprises a write request packet comprising data to be written to a memory location in the memory system of the receiving compute node corresponding to the address and the method comprises writing the data to the memory location in the receiving compute node (shared I/O, col 18, line

64 - col 19, line 36).

17. As per claim 19, Pettey discloses the local packetized interconnect packet comprises a read request packet (PCI Express logic, col 16, lines 7-31).

18. As per claim 20, Pettey discloses at the network interface of the sending compute node, associating the first range of addresses with a plurality of receiving compute nodes (col 16, lines 7-31).

19. As per claim 21, Pettey discloses maintaining a correspondence between the first range of addresses and address ranges in address spaces of the plurality of receiving compute nodes (col 16, lines 7-31).

20. As per claim 22, Pettey discloses the address ranges in the address spaces of the plurality of receiving compute nodes are not all the same (col 16, lines 7-31).

21. As per claim 23, Pettey discloses dispatching the inter-node communication network packet to the plurality of receiving compute nodes by way of a multicast feature of the inter-node communication network

(Ethernet protocol, col 6, lines 5-24).

22. As per claim 24, Pettey discloses at the sending compute node, encapsulating each of a plurality of copies of the local packetized interconnect packet in an inter-node communication network packet addressed to a different one of the plurality of receiving compute nodes and dispatching each of the inter-node communication network packets to the corresponding receiving compute node by way of the inter-node communication network (col 16, lines 7-31).

23. As per claim 25, Pettey discloses placing a plurality of local packetized interconnect packets addressed to one or more addresses in the first range of addresses on the local packetized interconnect of the sending compute node wherein encapsulating the packet in the inter-node communication network packet comprises encapsulating the plurality of local packetized interconnect packets in the same inter-node communication network packet (PCI Express logic, col 16, lines 7-31).

24. As per claim 26, Pettey discloses the plurality of local packetized interconnect packets each comprise header information and a payload, at least some of the header information is the same for each of the local

packetized interconnect packets and encapsulating the plurality of local packetized interconnect packets comprises placing into the inter-node communication network packet the payloads of all of the plurality of local packetized interconnect packets and the header information from fewer than all of the plurality of local packetized interconnect packets (PCI Express logic, col 16, lines 7-31).

25. As per claim 27, Pettey discloses the sending and receiving compute nodes are peers (fig 1, switch, col 16, lines 7-31).

26. As per claim 28, Pettey discloses the sending compute node has substantially the same construction as the receiving compute node (col 16, lines 7-31).

27. As per claim 29, Pettey discloses the local packetized interconnect packet comprises an atomic read-modify-write packet (col 14, lines 32).

28. As per claim 30, Pettey discloses the local packetized interconnects of the compute nodes operate at data rates in excess of 300 MBps (PCI Express bus, col 11, lines 4-27).

29. As per claim 31, Pettey discloses the inter-node communication network is characterized by a link data rate of at least 1 GBps (PCI Express bus, col 11, lines 4-27).

30. As per claim 32, Pettey discloses at the receiving compute node, altering a correspondence of the first range of addresses to addresses in the address space of the receiving compute node by changing the second range of addresses to a third range of addresses (Domains, col 16, lines 7-31).

31. As per claim 33, Pettey discloses the packet placed on the local packetized interconnect of the sending compute node is a read response packet and the method comprises converting the read response packet into a write request packet (col 18, lines 55 – col 19, line 36).

32. As per claim 34, Pettey discloses issuing a read request directed to a location in the memory system of the sending compute node wherein, placing the packet on the local packetized interconnect of the sending compute node is performed by the memory system of the sending compute node in response to the read request (col 18, lines 55 – col 19, line 36).

33. As per claim 35, Pettey discloses allocating a memory ID to a range of addresses in an address space of the receiving compute node and associating a corresponding first range of addresses in an address space of the sending compute node with the memory ID and the receiving compute node; at the sending compute node, determining an offset from an address associated with the local packetized interconnect packet and the first range of addresses and passing the memory ID and the offset in the inter-node communication network packet to the receiving compute node (col 18, lines 55 – col 19, line 36).

34. As per claim 36, Pettey discloses at the network interface of the receiving compute node, determining from the offset and memory ID a destination address in the range of addresses in the address space of the receiving compute node wherein placing the extracted packet onto the local packetized interconnect of the receiving compute node comprises addressing the extracted packet to the destination address (col 18, lines 55 – col 19, line 36).

35. As per claim 37, Pettey discloses establishing a reciprocal pathway for tunneling data packets from the receiving compute node to the sending

compute node (col 18, lines 55 – col 19, line 36).

36. As per claim 38, Pettey discloses at the network interface of the receiving compute node, receiving a request from the data processor of the receiving compute node that data be obtained from the sending compute node and, in response thereto, generating a local packetized interconnect read request packet, encapsulating the read request packet, and forwarding the read request packet to the sending compute node by way of the inter-node communication network wherein the local packetized interconnect packet is a read response packet generated in response to the read request packet (PCI Express, col 18, lines 55 – col 19, line 36).

37. As per claims 39-42, 43-44, and 45-46, claims are rejected for the same reasons as claims 1-4, above.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

38. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

39. Claims 12-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pettey et al. (7,046,668) (hereinafter Pettey) in view of Carnevale et al. (7,024,613) (hereinafter Carnevale).

40. As per claim 12, Pettey does not explicitly show how the write request packet comprises a write confirmation request and the method comprises, detecting the write confirmation request at the network interface of the sending compute node, generating a write confirmation packet at the network interface of the sending compute node and dispatching the write confirmation packet on the local packetized interconnect of the sending compute node. Carnevale, in the same field of endeavor, discloses the write request packet comprises a write confirmation request and the method comprises, detecting the write confirmation request at the network interface of the sending compute node, generating a write confirmation packet at the network interface of the sending compute node and dispatching the write confirmation packet on the local packetized interconnect of the sending compute node (col 4, lines 1-24). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify

Pettey in view of Carnevale by including a buffer management logic, because Carnevale suggests to achieve a desired latency in the interconnect fabric. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to modify Pettey in view of Carnevale by including buffer management logic to achieve a desired latency in the interconnect fabric.

41. As per claim 13, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claim 12, above. In addition, Carnevale discloses the network interface of the sending compute node, retaining a copy of the write request packet, maintaining a write completion timer and, if the write completion timer times out (col 4, lines 1-24) using the copy of the write request packet to resend the write request packet to the receiving compute node by way of the inter-node communication network (retransmit, col 4, lines 1-24).

42. As per claim 14, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claim 12, above. In addition, Carnevale discloses the write request packet comprises a write confirmation request and the method comprises: detecting the write confirmation request at the memory system of the receiving compute node, placing on the local packetized interconnect of the receiving compute node a write confirmation packet containing the address of the memory location in the address space of the receiving compute node; changing the write confirmation packet by altering the contained address of the memory location in the address space of the receiving compute node to a corresponding

address in the first range of addresses; and, subsequently placing the write confirmation packet on the local packetized interconnect of the sending compute node (col 4, lines 1-24).

43. As per claim 15, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claim 12, above. In addition, Carnevale discloses changing the write confirmation packet is performed at the network interface of the sending compute node (col 4, lines 1-24).

44. As per claim 16, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claim 12, above. In addition, Carnevale discloses changing the write confirmation packet is performed at the network interface of the receiving compute node (col 4, lines 1-24).

45. As per claim 17, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claim 12, above. In addition, Carnevale discloses the write request packet comprises a write confirmation request and the method comprises, detecting the write confirmation request at the network interface of the receiving compute node, generating a write confirmation packet at the network interface of the receiving compute node and dispatching the write confirmation packet to the sending compute node (col 4, lines 1-24).

46. As per claim 18, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claim 12, above. In addition, Carnevale discloses at the network interface of the receiving compute node, retaining a copy of the write request packet,

maintaining a write completion timer and, if the write completion timer times out, using the copy of the write request packet to resend the write request packet to the memory system of the receiving compute node (col 4, lines 1-24).

Conclusion

47. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

U.S. Patent 6,944,617

U.S. Patent 7,174,467

U.S. Patent 6,915,371

U.S. Patent 4,287,592

U.S. Patent 6,892,298

U.S. Patent 6,996,651

48. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mohammad A. Siddiqi whose telephone number is (571) 272-3976. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday -Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nathan J. Flynn can be reached on (571) 272-1915. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

MAS

NATHAN FLYNN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER